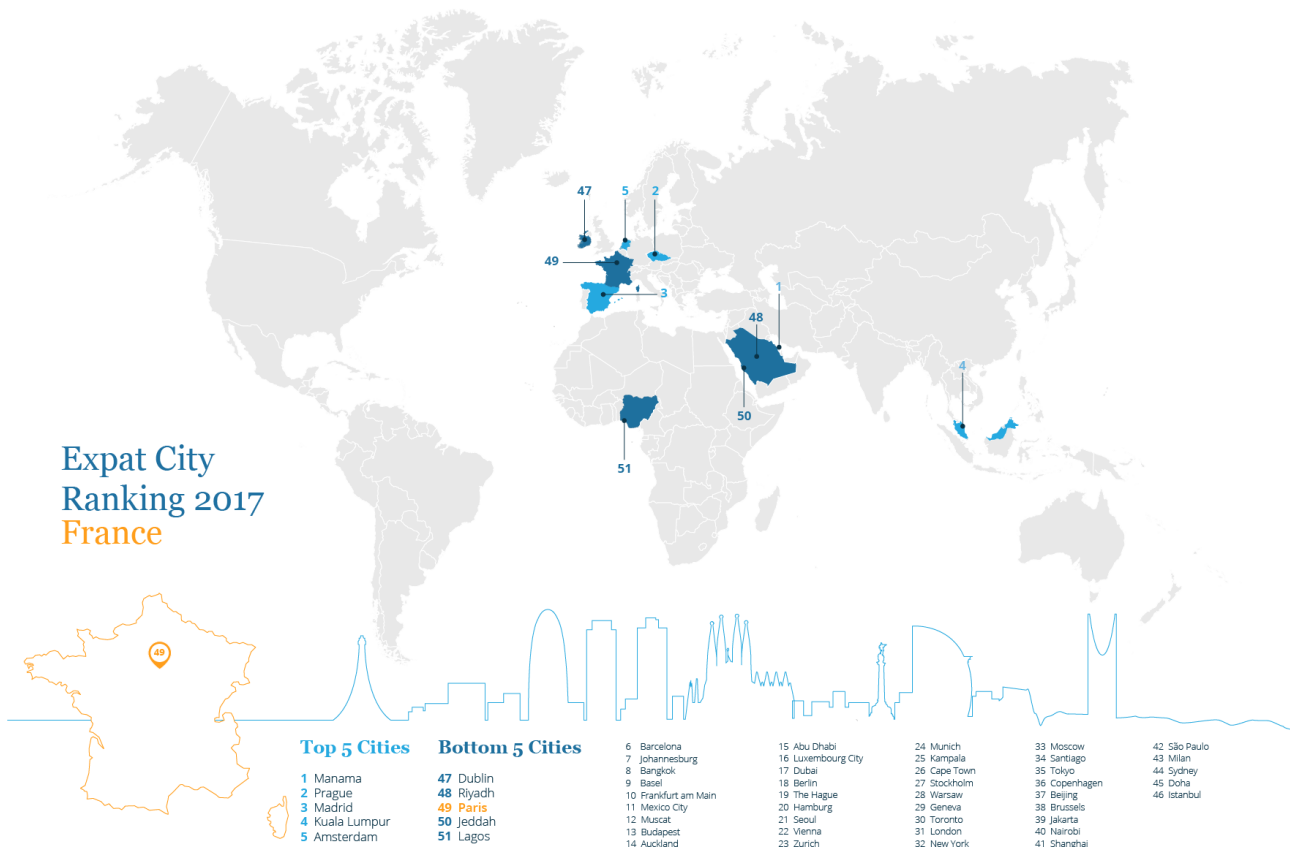


Expatriate City Ranking 2017: Paris Is the Worst European City to Live In As an Expatriate

The French capital is not only too expensive but also the hardest city to settle in as an expatriate.

- Paris is the hardest city to get settled in as an expatriate, with 36 percent of respondents not feeling at home there.
- Two-thirds (67%) find it hard to live in Paris without speaking the local language.
- More than seven in ten expatriates (71%) consider the local cost of living in Paris too high and less than half (46%) are satisfied with their financial situation.

Munich, 14 November 2017 — Coming in 49th out of 51 cities in this year's Expatriate City Ranking, Paris is rated the worst European city to live in as an expatriate. The capital of France places within the bottom 10 in terms of friendliness of the local residents, feeling welcome, friends and socializing, as well as finance and housing, as the so-far unpublished [Expatriate City Ranking 2017](#) reveals. The ranking is based on data collected in the annual *Expatriate Insider* survey, conducted by [InterNations](#), the largest expatriate community worldwide. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, *Expatriate Insider 2017* is one of the most extensive expatriate studies worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of expatriate life in 51 cities, the survey ranks them by a variety of factors from the areas quality of urban living, getting settled, urban work life, as well as finance and housing. According to all these rating factors, the top 10 cities for expatriates are Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Basel, and Frankfurt am Main.



Parisians' Distant Attitudes Leave Expats Feeling Unwelcome

Placing 49th out of 51 cities globally in the overall ranking, Paris even comes in last place for cities where expats find it easy to get settled. Proving all the stereotypes true, Parisians are deemed particularly unfriendly towards foreign residents, with more than two in five of those surveyed (43%) rating this factor negatively. This may account for the 58 percent of expats finding it hard to make new friends in the capital of France, compared to only 33 percent facing this challenge globally. One American expat in Paris notes that *"most French people are not interested in making friends with people outside of their family and social milieu"*. Furthermore, more than a third of expats (36%) does not feel at home in Paris, which is 15 percentage points more than the global average (21%). One of the reasons for this might be the particularly high language barrier: 67 percent of expats think it is difficult to live in Paris without being able to speak the local language, compared to 38 percent of respondents who say the same about their respective city of residence.

Housing Prices and the Local Cost of Living Too High for Expats

Aside from the challenges around settling in as an expat, expats' satisfaction with their finances in Paris do not look much better: placing 46th out of 51 cities for this factor, less than half the expats in Paris (46%) are satisfied with their financial situation, compared to 57 percent worldwide. Over seven in ten expats living in Paris (71%) think that housing prices and the local cost of living in general are too high — significantly more than the global average of 44 and 39 percent, respectively. Taken these factors into account, it is not surprising that 31 percent of expats in Paris state that their disposable household income is not enough to cover everything they need for daily life.

		Paris
	Overall City Ranking	49
	Quality of Urban Living Index	24
	Getting Settled Index	51
	Urban Work Life Index	40
	Finance & Housing Index	44

Top 5 Cities Make It Easy for Expats to Get Settled and Enjoy a Great Work Life

Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, and Amsterdam top the list of the best cities for expats: while Prague lags behind on 35th place for getting settled, the other four cities receive good to excellent ratings in this respect. A South African expat living in Kuala Lumpur likes *"the easy-going temperament and friendliness of the local people"* while an expat from the Philippines appreciates the *"very friendly and helpful locals"* in Manama. The majority of expats rates the general friendliness towards foreign residents positively in Manama (84%), Amsterdam (83%), Kuala Lumpur (78%), and Madrid (74%), compared to a global average of 67 percent. Prague, however, performs below average here: only about half the expats living there (49%) are satisfied with this factor. Nonetheless, the capital of the Czech Republic is one of the top destinations for expats in 2017, particularly due to its outstanding ratings in terms of work: nearly seven in ten expats (68%) are satisfied with local career opportunities in Prague — 19 percentage points more than the global average.

InterNations Communities in France

Out of 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, there are more than 102,000 InterNations members in France: about 51,000 of them live in Paris, making the capital the largest expat community in France, followed by Lyon, Nice, and Bordeaux.

Learn more about the InterNations Communities in [Paris](#) and [France](#) online!

Interested in Talking to Expats in Your City?



Visit an InterNations Official Event and personally meet expats from all over the world who will share their stories with you. Find out [here](#) when and where the next official event in your community will take place.

To receive a personal press invitation including free access to the event and interview opportunities with InterNations members, please contact press@internations.org or +49 (0)89 461 3324 79 and let us know which event you would like to attend.

Read More about the Expat City Ranking 2017



[The Best and Worst Cities](#)



[Quality of Urban Living](#)



[Getting Settled](#)



[Urban Work Life](#)



[Finance & Housing](#)

About the Expat City Ranking 2017

For its annual [Expats Insider survey](#), InterNations asked about 13,000 expatriates representing 166 nationalities and living in 188 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. In 2017, the fourth year the survey was conducted, respondents were also invited to share their opinions on the city they are currently living in.

Participants were asked to rate more than 25 different aspects of urban life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized the respondents' personal satisfaction with these aspects and considered both emotional topics as well as more factual aspects with equal weight. The respondents' ratings of the individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 13 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up four topical indices: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life, and Finance & Housing. These were further averaged in order to rank 51 cities worldwide. In 2017, the top 10 cities for expats are Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Basel, and Frankfurt am Main.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2017, a sample size of at least 45 survey participants per city was required. In total, the responses used for the city ranking represent 7,985 expats living in 40 countries.



About InterNations

With 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, InterNations (<http://www.internations.org>) is the largest global network and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 5,000 monthly events and activities, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include country and city guides created by a team of professional writers, guest contributions about life abroad, and discussion forums to help members with topics such as the local job or housing search. InterNations membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust.

The InterNations app is available for Android and iOS and can be downloaded for free on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#).

Find more information about InterNations on our [press pages](#), [company website](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or in our [Expat Magazine](#).

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